

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Life Data Labs Inc

Alabama Technology Network

Life Data Labs Restructures Environment, Safety and Health Programs

Client Profile:

Life Data Labs, Inc., headquartered in Cherokee, Alabama conducts research, manufactures animal products, and provides product support to customers. Since 1973, the company has funded and conducted equine research that has benefited the entire industry. Farrier's Formula®, an alfalfa-based, pelleted nutritional supplement, was developed to provide the nutrients needed to enable horses to build strong structural and connective tissue proteins (tendon, ligaments, bones, joints). Life Data Labs employs 15 people.

Situation:

Life Data Labs' core policy and highest priority is to protect the health and well-being of all employees through the prevention of injury and illness at work. After an unexpected increase in recordable injuries in 2009 Life Data Labs took action to express their commitment to safety and the well-being of their employees and called upon the Alabama Technology Network (ATN), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

ATN's Muscle Shoals Center provided assistance to Life Data Labs by conducting a multi-phase safety and health project. The project began with a safety compliance assessment that identifies gaps and areas for improvement with all aspects of the safety and health system. This consisted of an evaluation of written programs, training records, policies, procedures, inspection logs, recordkeeping and injury and illness data. A very thorough physical inspection was also conducted at both facilities to identify any non-conformances with federal, state, and local regulations. During the second phase, ATN and Life Data Labs developed and implemented all new safety and health written programs. The last phase consisted of a plant-wide training initiative that involved all employees.

Results:

Estimated impacts:

- * Cost avoidance of \$377 million.
- * Cost savings of \$243,000.

Testimonial:

"ATN provided Life Data Labs with immediate attention to our request for assistance on our employee safety and health project. The overall service and quality of the training as well as the guidance provided was excellent. We look forward to a continuing relationship for our future training requirements."

Phil Oliver, Manager Plant Operations

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